

were at the hospital checking up and giving Leo updates and details on the key races—information the Republicans would have paid dearly for.

And when he was too sick to talk, Nancy and Anna would call me for a report.

Nancy got the short report because she was in an airport somewhere—and Anna got the long report because she had time to sort out the information in between our tears.

On election night last November, Leo was in intensive care again and unable to take Nancy's call to tell him of the democrats' victory.

Several days later he was back in his room and we were watching a live CNN report showing Nancy and President Bush on the Speaker Elect's historic first visit to the Oval Office.

As the news report ended, shortly thereafter, the phone in the room rang, and it was Nancy herself calling to check up on him and give him a report on her meeting with George Bush.

I think he was prouder of Nancy's Speaker-ship victory more than his own.

Yes, Leo never gave up.

He said once to Mary Leslie, another terrific staffer during the Senate Campaigns that "Defeat will show you another way to make a difference."

That was Leo McCarthy.

So when he left elective office, he committed himself to his successful business interests to secure his family's future because his political interests sure never did.

And succeed he did—fulfilling a goal to fund a family foundation for poor children as well as begin the Leo T. McCarthy Institute for Public Service and the Common Good.

Today—on the campus of this great University, thanks to the support and encouragement of Father President Steve Privett, the leadership of Board President Joe Cotchett, and the day to day guidance of Dr. Patrick Murphy, the ideals, values, integrity, and lessons of Leo's life are blended with academics and real time internships in a spectacular opportunity for students.

In the years to come—more of the people who shared Leo's commitment and vision will have a chance to share their remembrances and lessons with USF students, and in so doing perpetuate the meaning of a life so well lived.

It was a blessing for me to have been so close to Leo McCarthy and his family.

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE MONTGOMERY, SHERIFF SEVIER COUNTY

### HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Bruce Montgomery, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away February 9, 2007 after an extended battle with illness.

Sheriff Bruce Montgomery lived a life of service in law enforcement and his local church. He was a member and Chairman of the Deacons at First Baptist Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Bruce was very active in his church. He was interested building the church and taking care of people in need.

Sheriff Montgomery took office in Sevier County in 1994 and continued to serve in this capacity until his passing. Bruce served with

distinction and the efficiency that is a model to all law enforcement in our nation. He was caring, but firm in all of his dealings.

He also served his country as a United States Marshal for 23 years, as Marshal for the Eastern District of the state of Tennessee and as Deputy United States Marshal.

Bruce Montgomery displayed excellence as a law enforcement officer, as a compassionate leader in his church, and most of all a caring husband, father, grandfather and a friend. He was known for treating encounters with presidents and paupers with the same genuine smile and indisputable compassion.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Bruce Montgomery. He was a dedicated family man, a foundation in his church, and a superior law enforcement officer.

His service is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

### 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF NWIHC

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHC will be celebrating its 5th anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both youth and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHC are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala, which throughout the years has demonstrated the immense generosity of its attendees and organizers, will go to support the needs of Habitat for Humanity. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, and tsunami relief, as well to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHC for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, due to a death in my family I needed to depart Washington, DC, last week and missed several votes on February 8, 2007.

Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on: rollcall vote 87, the Hastings of Florida amendment; rollcall vote 88, the Rogers (MI) amendment; rollcall vote 89, the Weller amendment; rollcall vote 90, the Cantor amendment; and rollcall vote 92, final passage of H.R. 547.

I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 91, the Motion to Recommit.

### TRIBUTE TO THIRLEE SMITH, JR.

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in sadness over the demise of the late Thirlee Smith, Jr. the first Black reporter at The Miami Herald. His role in the education of the children of Miami-Dade County is foremost in his achievements, having focused his attention on African-American history that it became an important part of the school system's curriculum. I join my fellow citizens in mourning the passing of this great leader, whose "going home" services will be celebrated this Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Miami's St. Agnes Episcopal Church.

Mr. Smith was the quintessential community leader. Not only did he write about the struggles and challenges impacting Blacks in Southern Florida, but he also symbolized tremendous hope for the youth to whom he bequeathed his unique brand of adventure that shed light on the mastery of basic skills and scholastic achievement. He has had to make sense of the malicious intent of segregation in his writing at The Miami Herald, but the lessons he learned from his parents, Thirlee Smith, Sr. and Beulah, epitomized his unshakable faith in the majesty of a loving God.

Having attended Liberty City Elementary School, he would soon represent the first graduating class of Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1956. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and Master's degree in Education at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He applied for a writer's job at The Miami Herald, but was unceremoniously told that the community was "not ready" for a Black reporter. Despite this rebuff, he was featured in 1960 in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He paved his way for a teaching career in the District of Columbia's public school system in 1961. In 1967 he returned home to teach in the Miami-Dade County Schools, and was simultaneously chosen as the first Black writer for the Miami Herald. After a post-graduate 4-year stint at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., he was promoted in 1997 as District Coordinator for African American History.

When I reminisce about the role that this great writer and educator played in fashioning